

**Special points of interest:**

- **Mayors notes**
- **Remembering Delos Groezinger**
- **Police News**
- **Possible Water Rate Raise**
- **New Dump Trucks**



# Village of Elizabeth Quarterly Newsletter

*Michael Dittmar, President*

## **Construction, New Board Members, and a Playground**

As many of you know, this last election, the tax referendum that was on the ballot passed, increasing property taxes by 37 cents. The tax increase will not be on this year's tax bill. I know it was a tough decision and whether you voted yes or no, the Board and I thank you for voting. In the next couple of months the Board will select the contractor to complete the roof repair of the Village Municipal building and it should be finished by this fall. Also this fall, we plan to have the gym open on weekends for use, and we are looking for volunteers to help organize and "work" there.

In keeping with the subject of the building, Highland's lease will have one year left, as of August 1st of this year. We plan to start negotiations then and will keep you updated. We have already had a couple of people contact us about moving to that building, now that the roof will be taken care of.

There will be a couple of construction projects taking place this year. First is a project from the State of Illinois. They are supposed to be resurfacing Highway

20, through town. It can happen anytime and might be done by the time you get this newsletter.

We did not get the big grant to redo our downtown sidewalks, but if you recall, we got a smaller one and that project will be going to the design phase soon. It will consist of fixing up the entrance to downtown on both sides of Myrtle Street by the Welcome Inn and the old grocery store. The plan is to make the Village look more appealing and hopefully get more people to stop and shop. It might start this fall, but more likely it will be a spring project.

Look for a new concession stand at the upper diamond this fall, after the season wraps up. For you, who are familiar with it, it is in bad shape and we plan to fix it as soon as we can.

We will be building a dry dam to catch water from flooding our sewer plant. This work should be done before fall.

The Board renewed our beautification program this year. The Village will give up to \$250 for people painting their residence. Please go

to the Village Hall for applications.

Terrapin Park is up and kids will soon be enjoying it. I want to thank all that donated anything from a dump-truck to \$25, and/or their time. The Village and I greatly appreciate it. We are looking for more donations for trees, a stage, and a pavilion, so if anyone is interested, please contact us.

I would like to thank Ed Wheelwright for his 2 years of service on the board. Ed was instrumental in helping get the Village on a more secure financial path and we thank him for his help. We would also like to thank Katie Longmore and Denise Anderson for volunteering to be Village trustees for the next two years.

As always my door is open so please don't hesitate to call!

**Michael Dittmar**

**Village, President**

**815-858-9823**

## Public Works Chairman Report

We are leaving this blank in memory of Delos Groezinger, Public Works Chairman.

## Remembering Delos Groezinger by Michael Dittmar

All in all, I will miss his experience, his wisdom, his laugh, and all of his stories. Mostly, I will just miss my friend.

I first really got to know Delos when he became a Board member again for the Village in 2007. I liked him immediately. He was always quick with a smile or some story or experience that was relevant to the discussion at hand that would help us make a better decision. He sometimes was quick with a story that sometimes just made us laugh.

In the six years that I got to know him, he was a tireless worker for the Village of Elizabeth. He had a keen sense of things that needed to be done now, but he also never took his eye off the future. He often said that he wanted Elizabeth to be here 30 years from now.

One of the things that I admired about him and hopefully, learned, was his ability to be

open minded. Every now and then, the board would have a heated, healthy debate and he would say, "convince me, convince me" giving the other person a shot at changing his mind.

All in all, I will miss his experience, his wisdom, his laugh, and all of his stories. Mostly, I will just miss my friend.

## Water Rate Raise



This summer, the Village will be discussing raising water rates 2%.

The water fund is what is called an Enterprise Fund. It is supposed to pay for itself. It is like a personal business except that it doesn't have to make money, it just has to break even. Unfortunately, for the last 7 years, it has been in deficit.

4 Years ago the fund had a \$50,000 deficit. We have reduced that deficit to about \$5,000.

Also, every year, costs rise and the fund is still having a hard time paying for itself. Money from the General Fund has been supplementing the Water Fund. Why is that a problem? We then have less money to fix

our streets.

The Village Board will be discussing raising water rates 2% every year to cover the increase of yearly costs.

Minimum water users of 2500 gallons would see a 28 cent raise per month and users of 4500 gallons would see around a 50 cent raise per month.

## Police Chief Report

Now that warm weather is here, people will be walking more and taking advantage of the nice weather. Please be mindful of pedestrians as you drive through the Village. Also, children will be present more and unfortunately they don't always look before running into the street and alleys. Our most precious asset for the future is our children and their safety is utmost in my mind.

In the past year, the Village has had problems with the parking of trailers, boats

and buses in the area of Catlin Street. This is a unique problem because Catlin residents do not have as much off street parking available to them and the street does seem narrower than other streets. I have never measured it, but I know from experience that Catlin Street is the hardest street in town to drive through. Last fall, a school bus was unable to navigate the street without having problems. The main culprit seems to be oversized buses, boat trailers and trailers. I did speak with

one resident a few weeks ago regarding a boat trailer and he was very cooperative about moving it off the street. I am asking the rest of the residents on Catlin Street who have trailers, boats, and bus type vehicles to please park them elsewhere. The area where the semis park near the Sycamore street entrance to Roberts' subdivision is owned by the village and available for trailer parking.

Con't on Back



## Why does the Village have a Camouflage Dump Truck?

Recently, the Village was able to become a member of the National LESO program. LESO is an acronym for a government agency where government entities can get surplus government equipment. The annual cost to join is \$400. The equipment is then FREE.

The Village recognized a need for a bigger, heavier lifter. The Village piles up snow during

plowing and after they "open" up the town, they go back through with the 1-ton dump truck to haul it away. It takes a great deal of time to do that as the 1-ton does not carry much snow. Also, during blizzard conditions, the Village contracts dump trucks and other equipment to help carry away snow, sometimes costing the Village between \$2,000 and \$4,000 dollars.

The Village joined LESO this year and applied for and received a camouflage dump-truck. It is a 2010 with 72,000 miles on it but had a rebuilt engine installed in 2011 to be ready for deployment over seas. With the draw down of forces in Iraq, the truck went into surplus. The Village now can save money by hauling more on our own and be more cost effective.



*The Village now can save money by hauling more on our own to be more cost effective.*

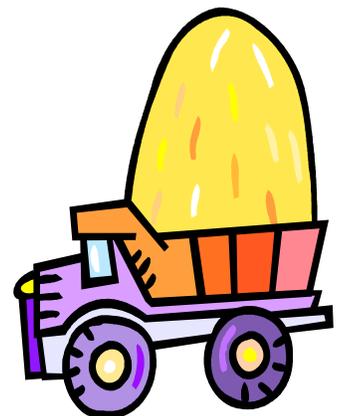
## The Village Will be Purchasing a New 1-ton Dump Truck.

Five years ago the Village purchased our current 1-ton navy blue dump truck. After five years of use, it is showing its age.

One of the problems with it was a mistake we made 5 years ago. We thought by going with a gas engine instead of diesel would be worth the \$8,000 in cost reduction. We were wrong.

While the truck has served us well, it is seriously under horsepower. Also, we did not want to spend the money on a stainless steel bed. After 5 winter's of hauling salt, the erosion is getting bad. In doing some research with the county, we found out that their stainless steel beds have lasted 10 years and are still in great shape.

Because of these two issues, the Village will be looking at purchasing a new 1-ton dump truck that is a diesel with a stainless steel bed in it.





*The Village of Elizabeth*

310 West Street Primary Business Address  
Your Address Line 2  
Your Address Line 3  
  
Phone: 555-555-5555  
Fax: 555-555-5555  
E-mail: someone@example.com

*The Village Board of Elizabeth published this newsletter in an effort to better communicate with the residents of the Village of Elizabeth. We intend to continue a tri-annual newsletter and will do our best to keep it up to date. The Village welcomes any organization that would like to use the newsletter or the Village websites to help advertise/communicate local events. Please contact Michael Dittmar or the Village Hall at 815-858-3911 if interested.*

*Sincerely,*

*The Village Board of Elizabeth*

**We're on the Web!**

(Village Municipal web-page) <http://villageofelizabeth.pbworks.com>

(Relocation web-page) <http://www.riverridge210.org/welcome/Elizabeth.html>

Facebook—Village of Elizabeth, Illinois

**Upcoming Dates and Community Events**

Elizabeth  
Community  
Fair

July 19th,  
20th, and  
21st

Elizabeth  
Chamber of  
Commerce

Spring Fling  
June 1st

Last Day of  
School

June 3rd

Con't from Police

I will be glad to show anyone where they can park. We do not have any ordinance that requires buses and trailers to be parked off Catlin street; however, we do have an ordinance that requires the movement of vehicles and trailers every 24 hours. I would rather ask for voluntary cooperation from residents every time. I think that is the best way of dealing with most situations.

Enjoy the rest of Spring.

*Chief Scott Toot*